

FILED

MAR 14 2017

Edwards,Michelle

From: Lockard, Stephen
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 1:17 PM
To: Nasser,Karrum; Karrum Nasser; Nation,Todd; Crossen,Martha; Martha Crossen; Don Morris; Morris,Don; Amy Auler; Auler,Amy; DeBaun,Curtis; Elliott,Earl; Azar, George; Garrison,Neil; Neil Garrison
Cc: Edwards,Michelle
Subject: IUPA Local 133 - Letter Regarding Proposed Jail Locations
Attachments: IUPA Letter to City Council.pdf

CITY CLERK

City Council Members,

I hope this email finds you well. I have attached a letter regarding the proposed locations for the construction of a new jail facility, and our concerns regarding each, should you be tasked with voting for or against a location within the city of Terre Haute.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter, and our concerns, further.

Respectfully,
Stephen Lockard
President
Terre Haute Police Officer's
I.U.P.A. Local 133



TERRE HAUTE POLICE OFFICER'S
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS
Local 133 Terre Haute, Indiana

March 14, 2017

Members of the Terre Haute City Council

I am writing you, as a member of the Terre Haute City Council, to express the concerns of our members regarding the potential locations for a new Vigo County Jail facility. As we understand it, two locations have been of primary interest for the construction of this facility.

First, the Vigo County Industrial Park, located in the southern portion of Vigo County. While we understand that this location has many benefits in regards to the initial financial costs of construction as well as being out of primary public view, this location would cause a strain on resources, not only for county agencies, but for the Terre Haute Police Department alike. With city financial resources already spread paper thin, past and potentially future budget cuts, manpower shortages, and an aging vehicle fleet, forcing city police to make what could be more than an hour round trip to book an arrestee into this facility would further strain our resources and manpower. Removing an officer from a city district not only provides less coverage to respond to calls for service from our citizens, it creates an unsafe shortage in back-up officers available for support in serious incidents and dramatically lengthens response times. Add to the situation the common occurrence of the jail refusing to accept an inmate due to intoxication, illness or injury, forcing the arresting officer to transfer that inmate to a medical facility for clearance, and then return to the jail facility, and this absence from service compounds to multiple hours and a second round trip to and from the jail facility, potentially keeping citizens waiting for a rapid law enforcement response to their needs. With current manpower shortfalls and the lack of financial resources to immediately remedy the situation, asking these officers to continue to provide the very best service to our community, with less backup and added safety concerns would be irresponsible, not only to our officers themselves, but to the citizens of Terre Haute. Added costs of fuel as well as vehicle wear and maintenance to supplement this extended trip are of additional concern.

PO Box 10012 Terre Haute, Indiana 47801



TERRE HAUTE POLICE OFFICER'S
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS
Local 133 Terre Haute, Indiana

The second location considered, the former International Paper site within the city limits of Terre Haute, has drawn much controversy as of late. While locating a jail facility along riverfront real estate is not ideal, and the controversy that this location has drawn due to its proximity to the existing Aquatic Center, constructing the jail facility in this location would be much less of a financial and officer safety concern, and if anything, the additional police presence in this area may be beneficial to the surrounding residents, preserving the short turn-around time for officers to return to the field to answer calls for service and assist the citizens of Terre Haute.

As the financial body of the City of Terre Haute, we hope that you will closely examine the additional financial costs to the City, in an era of already strained financial resources, that would follow the construction of a jail in the outreaches of Vigo County, and, if asked, vote to allow the construction of the new jail facility within the city limits of Terre Haute, be it at the former International Paper site, or elsewhere.

Respectfully,

Stephen Lockard
President
Terre Haute Police Officer's
I.U.P.A. Local 133
President